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(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To direct the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to establish a fund to provide financial assistance to individuals for funeral expenses related to a deceased individual who died of COVID-19, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To direct the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to establish a fund to provide financial assistance to individuals for funeral expenses related to a deceased individual who died of COVID-19, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “COVID-19 Funeral
5 Assistance Fund”.

1 **SEC. 2. FEDERAL ASSISTANCE TO INDIVIDUALS FOR FU-**
2 **NERAL EXPENSES.**

3 (a) GENERAL RULE.—The Administrator of the Fed-
4 eral Emergency Management Agency shall provide finan-
5 cial assistance to individuals for funeral expenses related
6 to a deceased individual who died—

7 (1) of COVID–19; and

8 (2) without sufficient insurance to pay for such
9 funeral expenses.

10 (b) ESTABLISHMENT OF FUND.—Not later than 30
11 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Ad-
12 ministrator shall establish a fund to be known as the
13 “COVID–19 Funeral Assistance Fund” (in this Act re-
14 ferred to as the “Fund”) for the purpose of providing fi-
15 nancial assistance under subsection (a).

16 (c) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR FUNERAL EX-
17 PENSES.—

18 (1) ELIGIBILITY.—

19 (A) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive
20 financial assistance from the Fund, an indi-
21 vidual shall—

22 (i) submit to the Administrator an ap-
23 plication based on the criteria under para-
24 graph (2); and

1 (ii) demonstrate a common familial
2 relationship to the deceased individual de-
3 scribed in subsection (a).

4 (B) NO CITIZENSHIP REQUIREMENT.—An
5 individual described in subparagraph (A) may
6 be—

7 (i) a citizen of the United States; or

8 (ii) a nonresident alien.

9 (2) APPLICATION CRITERIA.—

10 (A) IN GENERAL.—The application under
11 paragraph (1) shall include the following:

12 (i) Funeral expenses with respect to
13 COVID–19 for a deceased individual de-
14 scribed in subsection (a) that were in-
15 curred or will be incurred during the pe-
16 riod beginning on January 21, 2020 and
17 ending on December, 31, 2021.

18 (ii) Proof of the date of death of the
19 deceased individual.

20 (iii) Proof that COVID–19 was the
21 cause of death (directly or indirectly) of
22 the deceased individual as determined by
23 the Administrator based on a death certifi-
24 cate from an official of competent jurisdic-
25 tion.

1 (iv) Proof of the identity of the indi-
2 vidual applying for assistance under this
3 section.

4 (B) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT IF IN-
5 SURED.—If the deceased individual described in
6 subsection (a) had insurance not greater than
7 \$15,000, the application shall include proof of
8 insurance with respect to the funeral expenses
9 of the deceased individual.

10 (3) LIMITATION.—The amount allowed for a
11 payment to an individual pursuant to paragraph (1)
12 shall not exceed \$15,000 with respect to each de-
13 ceased individual described in subsection (a).

14 (4) NO REQUIREMENT TO RESIDE IN A PRESI-
15 DENTIALLY DECLARED DISASTER AREA.—The Ad-
16 ministrator may not require an individual to reside
17 in a Presidentially declared disaster area to receive
18 financial assistance pursuant to this section.

19 (d) VERIFICATION AND APPLICATION PROCESS RE-
20 QUIREMENTS.—In carrying out this section, the Adminis-
21 trator shall—

22 (1) verify the identity and address of an indi-
23 vidual that receives financial assistance under this
24 section;

1 (2) minimize the risk of making a duplicative
2 payment for a fraudulent application under this sec-
3 tion;

4 (3) recover any duplicate payment provided
5 pursuant to this section; and

6 (4) conduct an expedited and simplified review
7 and appeal process for an individual whose applica-
8 tion for assistance under this section is denied.

9 (e) FUNERAL ASSISTANCE DISREGARDED IN ADMIN-
10 ISTRATION OF FEDERAL PROGRAMS.—Notwithstanding
11 any other provision of law, financial assistance provided
12 to an individual under this section shall not be taken into
13 account as income, and shall not be taken into account
14 as resources for a period of 12 months from receipt, for
15 purposes of determining the eligibility of such individual
16 for benefits or assistance (or the amount or extent of bene-
17 fits or assistance) under any Federal program or under
18 any State or local program financed in whole or in part
19 with Federal funds.

20 (f) DIRECT APPROPRIATION.—There is appropriated,
21 out of amounts in the Treasury not otherwise appro-
22 priated, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020,
23 \$500,000,000 to carry out this Act.

24 (g) PRESIDENTIALLY DECLARED DISASTER AREA
25 DEFINED.—The term “Presidentially declared disaster

1 area” means an area for which the President has declared
2 a major disaster under section 401 of the Robert T. Staf-
3 ford Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
4 5121 et seq.).